

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 EURE-00

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P 221230Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3920

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 4422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, YO (TOTH, LASZLO)

SUBJECT: SITUATION AMCIT TOTH

REF: BELGRADE 4266

1. TOTH'S LAWYER TOLD CONOFF AUGUST 19 THAT INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN DECLARED "SECRET" BY INVESTIGATING JUDGE IN NOVI SAD AND THAT THEREFORE HE COULD NOT DISCUSS CASE.

2. TOTH'S SISTER CAME TO EMBASSY AUGUST 19 WITH NOTE FROM HER BROTHER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT FORD WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: "DEAR PRESIDENT, I AM AMERICAN CITIZEN AND INNOCENTLY ACCUSED WITH ESPIONAGE. I AM SURE YOU HAVE MANY WAYS TO CHECK THAT I DON'T BELONG AND NEVER BELONGED TO ANY INTELLIGENCE OR SIMILAR ORGANIZATION. PLEASE HELP." SIGNED LASZLO TOTH, 9778 ORANGEWOOD DR., DENVER COLORADO.

3. ACCORDING TOTH'S SISTER, WHO VISIBLY DISTRAUGHT ABOUT CASE, TOTH IS IN GOOD HEALTH. SHE SAID TOTH'S LAWYER HAD ALSO CONVEYED TO HER INFO IN PARA ONE. SHE ADDED THAT LAWYER'S WIFE HAD TOLD HER THAT LAWYER HAD REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF TRIAL WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 16 AND THAT POSTPONEMENT GRANTED. LAWYER TOLD CONOFF INVESTIGATION COULD TAKE  
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ANOTHER 2-3 WEEKS. SISTER SAID JUDGE TOLD HER IT

NOT POSSIBLE FOR HER TO VISIT TOTH.

4. SISTER EXPLAINED AGAIN HER UNDERSTANDING OF INCIDENT WHICH LED TO TOTH'S ARREST. SHE SAID "OFFICIAL COMPANY PHOTOGRAPHER" HAD TAKEN PICTURES USING TOTH'S CAMERA AFTER TOTH HAD BEEN TOLD THAT TAKING PHOTOS NOT ALLOWED. ACCORDING SISTER, TOTH'S COMPANY (GREAT WESTERN SUGAR COMPANY) OF DENVER WAS INTERESTED IN BUYING SOME EQUIPMENT FOR "CUTTING" SUGAR BEETS FROM GERMANY AND THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT BEING USED AT MILL IN VRBAS. SISTER ALSO SAID TOTH HAD HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH OTHER MILL EMPLOYEES WHEN HE WORKED THERE 10-12 YEARS AGO.

5. SISTER SAID TOTH ALSO HAD YUGOSLAV PASSPORT BUT THAT HE HAD NOT USED IT SINCE BECOMING U.S. CITIZEN. SHE SAID TOTH ENTERED YUGOSLAVIA ON U.S. PASSPORT WITH YUGOSLAV VISA.

6. CONOFF AGAIN DISCUSSED TOTH CASE WITH FSFA CONSULAR OFFICIAL AUGUST 18 AND WAS TOLD IN FRIENDLY BUT EXASPERATED TONE THAT THERE NO POSSIBILITY OF CONSULAR ACCESS. WHEN CONOFF MENTIONED PROBABLE INTEREST OF VISITING CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN CASE, FSFA OFFICIAL SAID THEY OF COURSE FREE TO RAISE ANY ISSUE THEY WANT BUT CONTINUED PROBING INTO TOTH CASE MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS "INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" OF YUGOSLAVIA.

7. SPEAKER ALBERT AND CONGRESSMAN FOLEY AND MICHEL WHO RECEIVED COMMERCIAL CABLES AT EMBASSY RE CASE FROM CONGRESSMAN JAMES P. JOHNSON WERE BRIEFED BY AMBASSADOR ON CASE AUGUST 20.  
SILBERMAN

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## Message Attributes

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